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#98

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the FINAL CHAPTER PART 4 of 4

PETER PARKER™

SPIDER-MAN®

MACKIE
ROMITA Jr
HANNA

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HAHAHAHAHA HE'S DEAD! I KILLED HIM!

I KILLED SPIDER-MAN!

BELIEVING HE HAS BEEN ENDOWED WITH THE GIFT OF **ULTIMATE POWER** FROM THE GATHERING OF FIVE CEREMONY --

-- NORMAN OSBORN HAS INSTEAD RECEIVED ONE OF THE OTHER FOUR GIFTS...

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN IN

the FINAL CHAPTER

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NORMAN OSBORN IS STARK RAVING MAD!

I THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS GATHERING OF FIVE CEREMONY HE'S BEEN RANTING ABOUT.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET A LUCID THOUGHT OUT OF HIM SINCE I RETURNED TO OSBORN INDUSTRIES LOOKING TO FIND OUT WHAT HE PLANTED IN AUNT MAY'S HEAD.

AUNT MAY.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S REALLY ALIVE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT OSBORN FAKED HER DEATH, SET SOMEONE ELSE IN HER PLACE... AN ACTRESS WHO WAS INFUSED WITH HER *DNA* MATRIX. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, AND YET...

NORMAN SPILLED HIS GUTS TO ME ABOUT *EVERYTHING* WHILE HE WAS TEARING UP THE CITY.

HE DID SEEM STRONGER, MORE DIFFICULT TO SUBDUE. IT WAS THE STRENGTH OF A MADMAN. BUT THE MADNESS THREW HIS TIMING OFF SO I COULD GET TO HIM.

HIS SPEECH WAS PRACTICALLY INCOHERENT WHILE HE WAS RAILING ON AND ON ABOUT KILLING ME.

ALMOST DID A FEW TIMES, THOUGH I FINALLY TOOK HIM DOWN AND WEBBED HIM UP.

HE DID MAKE A REAL MESS OUT OF THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING ALONG THE WAY. DOUBT THAT'LL BE SALVAGEABLE.

RANTING ON AND ON ABOUT HIS POWER, HIS GODHOOD AND ABOUT HOW THE THING HE'S IMPLANTED IN AUNT MAY'S SKULL IS GOING TO TRIGGER OFF SOME SORT OF WORLDWIDE *DNA* BOMB.

THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO KNOW IF IT IS SIMPLY MORE RAVINGS, OR IF IT'S THE TRUTH. I *HAVE* SEEN SOME OF WHAT HE CAN DO.

REED RICHARDS SAID IF THE IMPLANT STAYS IN AUNT MAY'S SKULL SHE'LL DIE...

... NORMAN SAYS IF IT'S TAKEN OUT-- THE *WORLD* WILL DIE!

I CAN'T LET *EITHER* HAPPEN.

THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY, BUT WHAT?

I *KILLED* HIM.

THE POLICE CAN HANDLE IT FROM HERE.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO REED... STOP HIM BEFORE HE AND THE DOCTORS OPERATE ON AUNT MAY...

GOT TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ARGH!

GOBLIN TOOK MORE OUT OF ME THAN I THOUGHT.

FEELS LIKE A CRACKED RIB.

I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.

SPIDER-MAN'S DEAD AND I'M THE *KING* OF THE WORLD!

BOOM! *BOOM!* *BOOM!*

DNA BOMBS ARE GOING *BOOM!* EVERYBODY TURNING TO MUSH!

JONAH.

WHY DO I THINK THAT HE'S NOT GOING TO THANK ME FOR SAVING HIS LIFE LAST WEEK?

I SAW HIM AT HIS WEAKEST.

HE HAD A GUN TRAINED ON NORMAN AND COULDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER.

IF HE ONLY KNEW HOW MUCH I ADMIRED HIM FOR *NOT* DOING IT.

BUT HE'S *NOT* GOING TO FORGIVE ME.

HE'S JUST GOING TO TURN UP THE HEAT ON HIS PERSONAL CRUSADE TO BRING ME DOWN.

WHY DO I BOTHER?

WE'VE GOT A PAPER TO PUT OUT AND STORIES TO WRITE, PEOPLE!

SEE WHAT YOU CAN SALVAGE FROM THE RUBBLE AND GET TO WORK.

JONAH, I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE TO --

NONSENSE! LET'S JUST GET IN AND OUT BEFORE THE POLICE TRY AND STOP US!

WHAT? SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING CRAZY!

ONE OF THE GOBLIN'S PUMPKIN BOMBS!

THEY'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!

BOOM!

THE END OF THE WORLD!

BOOM!

IT ALL FALLS DOWN!

BOOM!

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING!

IT'S GOING TO GO!

CLEAR THE AREA!

NO!

FRAKA KOOM

SCREE

THE BUILDING! IT WAS GOING, BUT... IT STOPPED!

HOW?

THERE!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

HE'S HOLDING UP THE BUILDING!

NO.

I'M HOLDING UP ***ONE*** SUPPORT BEAM AND PRAYING THAT THE BUGLE DOESN'T FALL DOWN AROUND MY EARS.

KRAK

KOOM

MAYBE I'LL TRY PRAYING A LITTLE HARDER.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

AUNT MAY IS GOING TO BE HAVING SURGERY SOON AND...

ARGH!

... I'VE GOT TO GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY OPERATE!

MY GOD, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE AUNT MAY AGAIN, BUT...

... THE LIFE OF EVERY PERSON ON THIS PLANET MAY BE AT RISK.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO REED.

EVERYONE! CLEAR THE AREA NOW!

THAT BUILDING IS GOING TO COLLAPSE!

GET EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THERE AND PULL THOSE PEOPLE OUT!

HELP!

SAVE US!

IT'S HIS FAULT!

YOU DID THIS, SPIDER-MAN!

COME ON, BUDDY, BACK IT UP!

IF YOU LIVE THROUGH THIS I SWEAR BY EVERYTHING I BELIEVE...

... I'M GOING TO FIND SOME WAY TO DESTROY YOU!

THE WORLD IS GOING TO KNOW YOU FOR THE MENACE YOU ARE!

DO YOU HEAR ME, SPIDER-MAN!

I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!

DESTROY YOU!

COME ON, JAMIE! MOVE IT!

AND MAKE SURE YOU GET TO THE GOBLIN BEFORE THE POLICE CART HIM AWAY!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

THIS IS SARAH CHAN FROM EYEWITNESS NEWS REPORTING FROM THE SCENE OF THE AFTERMATH OF THE LATEST BATTLE BETWEEN THE GREEN GOBLIN AND SPIDER-MAN.

ALL EYES ARE ON SPIDER-MAN AND HIS LIFE OR DEATH STRUGGLE AS THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING COLLAPSES AROUND HIM.

I CAN'T DO THIS.

IT'S JUST TOO MUCH.

I'M SORRY, AUNT MAY.

I'M SORRY.

A HUGE CROWD HAS GATHERED AROUND THIS SCENE OF HORROR AND CHAOS.

SENTIMENTS VARY REGARDING SPIDER-MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN IT ALL.

RIGHT NOW DETECTIVES ARE INVESTIGATING ***EXACTLY*** WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT. DEPENDING ON WHAT WE FIND... SPIDER-MAN MIGHT BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

YOU ASK ME, THAT WHOLE JOEY Z THING STILL STINKS!

HE WAS TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT SOMETIMES PEOPLE CAN'T SEE PAST THE MASK.

I'VE WORKED IN THIS BUILDING FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. NOW, BECAUSE OF SPIDER-MAN, I'VE GOT TO GO HOME AND TELL MY WIFE...

... I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** I'LL TELL HER.

HE'S ***CUTE!***

HE'S ***CUTE!***

SPIDER-MAN? WHAT'S A SPIDER-MAN?

I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE FROM OHIO.

IS THIS GOING TO BE ON TV TONIGHT?

HE'S A MENACE.

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT THIS CITY COMES TO ITS SENSES AND SEES WHAT I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT EVER SINCE HE ARRIVED ON THE NEW YORK SCENE.

IT DOES MY HEART GOOD TO SEE PEOPLE PULLING THE WOOL FROM THEIR EYES.

HERO? Pheh!

KILL THE SPIDER

WITHOUT HIM NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TONIGHT.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS KIND OF THING.

GO AHEAD, SARAH. FIND ME ONE PERSON IN THIS CROWD WHO BELIEVES THAT SPIDER-MAN IS A GENUINE HERO.

YOU CAN DO IT, PETER.

I *KNOW* YOU CAN.

PLEASE, PETER... FOR ME.

I LOVE YOU.

THE BUILDING IS ALMOST CLEAR.

I'VE DONE MY JOB.

I'VE DONE ENOUGH.

AND *LOOK* AT THEM. MY ADMIRING AUDIENCE -- MY ADORING PUBLIC!

WITH GREAT POWER MUST COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

IT'S BEEN MY MANTRA, MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY, THE THING THAT KEEPS ME IN THE WEBS.

BUT *WHY?*

UNCLE BEN DIED BECAUSE I DIDNT ACT.

GWEN STACY DIED BECAUSE I DID.

NOW AUNT MAY MIGHT BE DEAD, REALLY DEAD, BECAUSE OF ME. OR...

... FOR ALL I KNOW, REED AND HIS TEAM OF SURGEONS HAVE ALREADY REMOVED THE TRIGGER NORMAN IMPLANTED IN HER HEAD AND STARTED THE *DNA* BOMB CHAIN REACTION!

AND IF THAT'S HAPPENED THEN ALL MY EFFORTS TO BEAT THE GOBLIN --

-- TO HOLD UP THIS BUILDING -- AND TO SAVE MY AUNT...

... WERE FOR NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

AND THE GREEN GOBLIN, NORMAN OSBORN -- WINS.

AGAIN.

FOR GOOD.

FIGHT.

MARY JANE?

SHE'S OUT THERE... SOMEWHERE.

I KNOW SHE IS.

WHY AM I DOING THIS?

WHY KEEP FIGHTING?

WHY?

FOR HER!

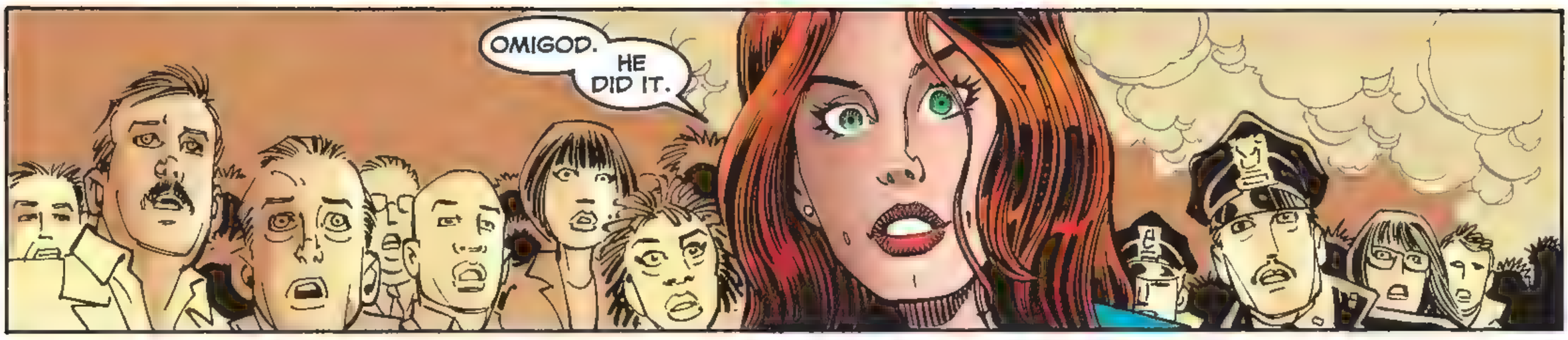
AND BECAUSE I ***HAVE*** TO!

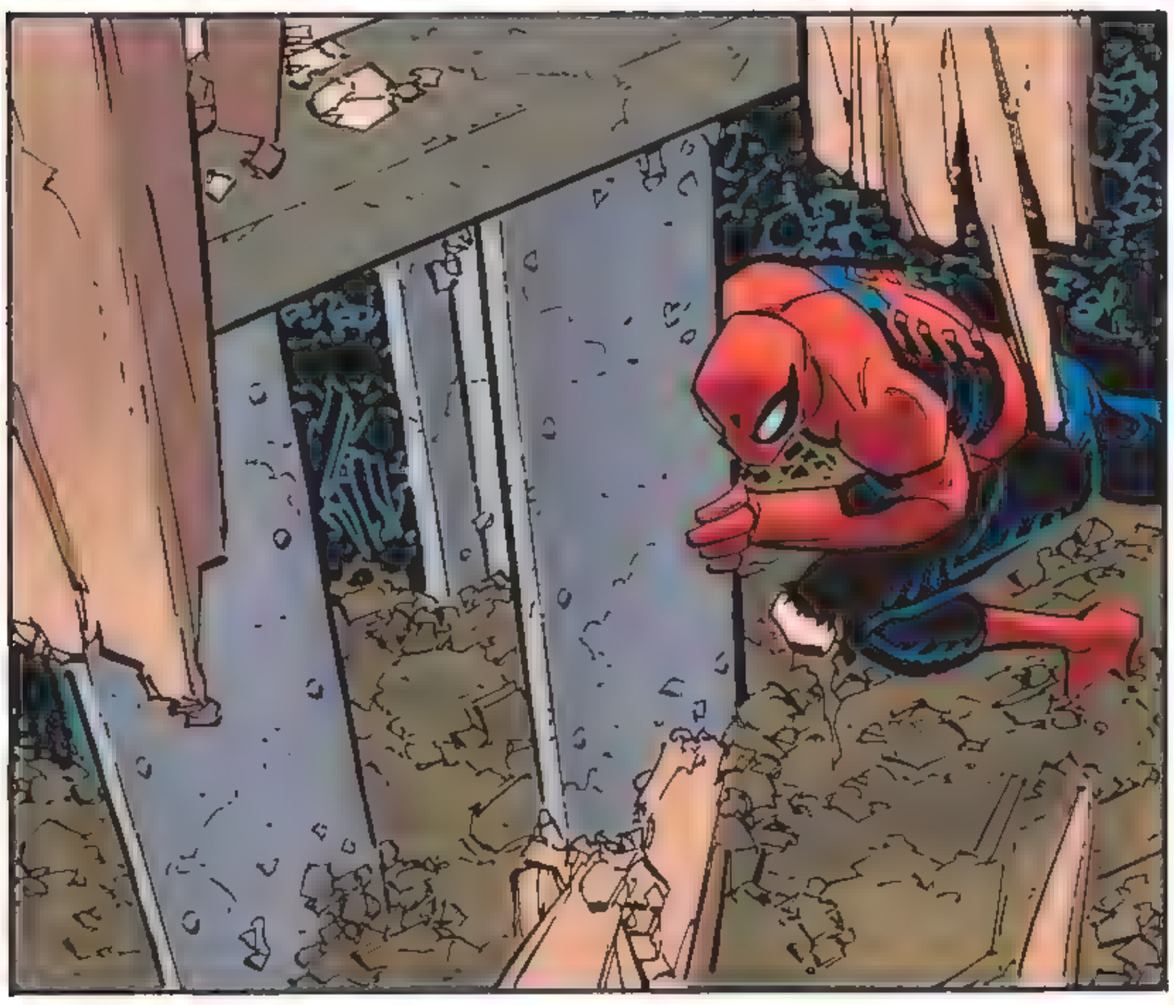
NORMAN OSBORN IS ***NOT*** GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME!

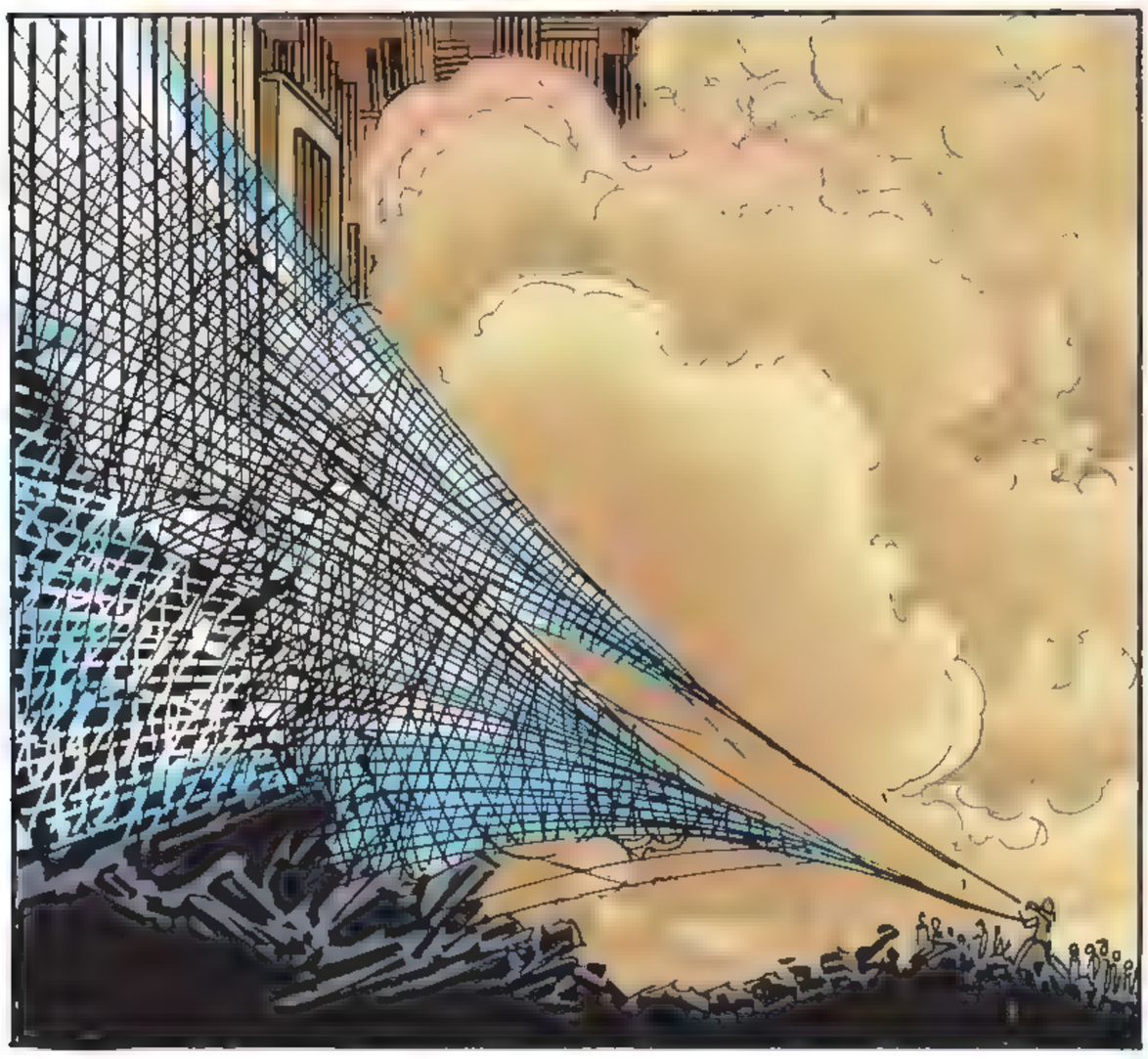
NEVER AGAIN!

NEVER...

...AGAIN!


OMIGOD.
HE DID IT.





NEVER AGAIN.

IT'S OVER.

MOVE THESE PEOPLE BACK. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THE WEBBING WILL HOLD.

Hmmph!

ARREST HIM.

ARREST *HIM!*

HE'S A *MENACE!*

LOOK WHAT HE'S DONE TO MY BUILDING -- TO THE HOME OF THE FINEST NEWSPAPER IN THE CITY!

I WILL SEE YOU *HANG* FOR THIS, SPIDER-MAN!

WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SHOW YOUR FACE IN ANY PART OF NEW YORK!

YOU THINK THE BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD FOR MURDER WAS TOUGH...

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT, JONAH.

I DON'T CARE ANY MORE.

SPIDER-MAN! IF WE COULD ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS...

NO. I'M THROUGH.

MEET ME AT THE HOSPITAL.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENED.

I LOVE YOU.

THANKS FOR BEING HERE.

ARE YOU OKAY?

NOT REALLY, BUT...

"...I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP MOVING."

A SHORT TIME LATER...

I'M MOVING TOO SLOW.

REED AND HIS TEAM OF SURGEONS SHOULD BE GETTING READY TO OPERATE ON AUNT MAY ANY MINUTE NOW.

CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

CAN'T! THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD -- CATASTROPHIC.

OOOPH!

I'M HURTING -- BAD.

THE BATTLE WITH NORMAN TOOK EVERYTHING OUT OF ME.

HIS STRENGTH SEEMED AMPLIFIED BY THE INSANITY.

AND THEN... TRYING TO KEEP THE BUGLE FROM COLLAPSING.

I'VE CRACKED A COUPLE OF RIBS, HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING, ARMS AND LEGS FEEL LIKE JELLY AND MY HEAD IS SPINNING.

RIGHT NOW MY BODY IS ITS OWN WORST ENEMY...

... BUT GIVING UP JUST ISN'T AN OPTION.

THE SURGEONS HAVE GOT TO BE ***STOPPED*** FROM OPERATING ON AUNT MAY.

IF I CAN BELIEVE ***ANY*** OF WHAT NORMAN SAID...

... IF THEY OPEN HER UP...

... AND EXPOSE THE TRIGGER TO THE AIR...

IT'LL START A CHAIN REACTION AND SET OFF THE ***DNA*** BOMBS HE'S PLANTED AROUND THE WORLD.

NORMAN WAS INSANE AT THE END, BUT...

... I WITNESSED THE KINDS OF THINGS HE WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH.

I SAW THE AFTERMATH OF HIS DNA BOMB. IT WAS HORRIFYING.

STILL... HOW DO I BELIEVE THE WORD OF A MADMAN?

HOW DO I BELIEVE ***ANY*** OF IT?

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #263 -- – After Ralf.

HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT AUNT MAY IS STILL ALIVE... THAT SHE NEVER DIED IN THE FIRST PLACE?

HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT NORMAN HIRED AN ACTRESS...

... SOMEONE WILLING TO BE CHANGED ON A GENETIC LEVEL TO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY AUNT, AND THEN HE ALLOWED HER TO DIE IN MY ARMS?

HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT THIS ISN'T ALL JUST MORE OF THE SAME ELABORATE MIND GAME HE'S BEEN PLAYING WITH ME FOR YEARS?

AND IF I DO BELIEVE, THEN I KNOW...

... THAT BY STOPPING REED AND HIS SURGEONS FROM REMOVING THE DEVICE NORMAN HAD IMPLANTED IN AUNT MAY'S BRAIN, I'LL SAVE THE WORLD AND --

-- LOSE THE ONLY MOTHER I'VE EVER KNOWN. THE KINDEST, GENTLEST PERSON...

SHE WAS THE WOMAN WHO RAISED ME, WHO MADE ME THE MAN I AM, AND BY DOING WHAT HAS GOT TO BE DONE, I'LL WATCH HER DIE...

... AGAIN!

I ***HATE*** YOU FOR THIS, NORMAN! BUT I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, YOU MONSTER! SO...

EXIT

REED!

STOP!

SPIDER-MAN, WE CAN'T! SHE'LL --

JUST LISTEN TO ME.

AND ***TRY*** TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING... ***ANYTHING***... ELSE! DON'T REMOVE THE DEVICE.

BUT PLEASE SAVE HER.

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM...

ARE YOU SURE, PETER? YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ELABORATE HOAX?

REED RICHARDS IS SURE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE WAIT...

... AND PRAY.

WHAT ABOUT NORMAN?

HE'S GONE OVER THE EDGE. HE'S NO LONGER AN ISSUE FOR US.

PETER... I KNOW THIS MAY NOT SEEM LIKE THE BEST TIME, BUT...

THE REACTION TO MY GETTING BACK INTO MODELING HAS BEEN GREAT... BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO HAVE THE MONEY FOR US TO LIVE THE LIFE WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

MY AGENT ALREADY HAS A LINE ON A PLACE FOR US TO LIVE. A PLACE OF OUR OWN. WE CAN BRING AUNT MAY IN TO LIVE WITH US, REALLY CARE FOR HER.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET AUNT MAY THE BEST MEDICAL CARE IMAGINABLE. AND...

YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL YOURSELF WITH WORK ANYMORE, PETER. YOU CAN FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES AND ON BEING SPIDER-MA --

I'M DONE, MJ.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THIS. *ALL* OF IT. NONE OF IT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF IT WASN'T FOR SPIDER-MAN.

WHAT HAS HE EVER BROUGHT INTO OUR LIVES BUT MISERY?

DID YOU SEE HOW THOSE PEOPLE REACTED AFTER I SAVED THEIR LIVES?

IF THEY HAD A ROPE I THINK THEY WOULD HAVE HUNG ME. JAMESON SURE WOULD.

I JUST DON'T THINK I NEED IT... AND *THEY* CERTAINLY DON'T NEED ME.

Mr. PARKER?

YOUR AUNT...

... SHE'S ALIVE AND IN STABLE CONDITION.

I'LL LET HER PHYSICIAN FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS OF HER PHYSICAL CONDITION, BUT I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT HER LIFE, AND PROBABLY THE REST OF THE PLANET WAS SAVED BY SPIDER-MAN.

WITH INFORMATION SPIDER-MAN WAS ABLE TO GIVE ME REGARDING SOME OF THE GOBLIN'S PAST EXPERIMENTS WITH *DNA* WE WERE ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE THE DEVICE IN YOUR AUNT'S SKULL.

IT'S A BIT COMPLEX, SON, BUT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT YOUR AUNT, WITH PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION...

...SHOULD BE IN RELATIVELY GOOD, BUT FRAGILE, HEALTH FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HER?

YES, SIR... MORE THAN YOU COULD *EVER* IMAGINE!

SHORTLY...

PETER?

LATER...

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

IT'S OVER, MARY JANE.

NORMAN... THE GREEN GOBLIN... IS OUT OF MY LIFE.

AUNT MAY IS BACK.

THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND SOME SENSE OF NORMALCY.

LETS GET ON WITH OUR LIVES.

ELSEWHERE...

KILLED SPIDER-MAN!

BOOM!

KILLED SPIDER-MAN!

BOOM!

KILLED SPIDER-MAN!

BOOM!

HEE HEE HEE...

HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE THEY BROUGHT HIM IN.

AND, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, GIVEN ALL THAT APPEARED ON THE NEWS TODAY, I'M AFRAID TO APPROACH HIM.

YOU'RE BEING ABSURD, MYRON.

WE'LL START BY *REMOVING* THE MASK.

GUARD.

ALREADY ON IT, DOC.

OMIGOD!

HIS FACE! *HE* --

HE BELONGS TO US.

NORMAN OSBORN BELONGS TO THE *SCRIERS!*